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Georgia

STATE PARK

DECEMBER

1960

VIEWS

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Seasons Greetings



DIRECTOR

CHARLES A. COLLIER

PREPARED AND EDITED BY

BARBARA J. RANKIN -- RECREATION DIRECTOR

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

As we approach the end of another year, we, in the General Office of the Department of State Parks, wish to take this opportunity to thank all of the park superintendents and co-workers and other agencies for the splendid cooperation given to us during 1960.

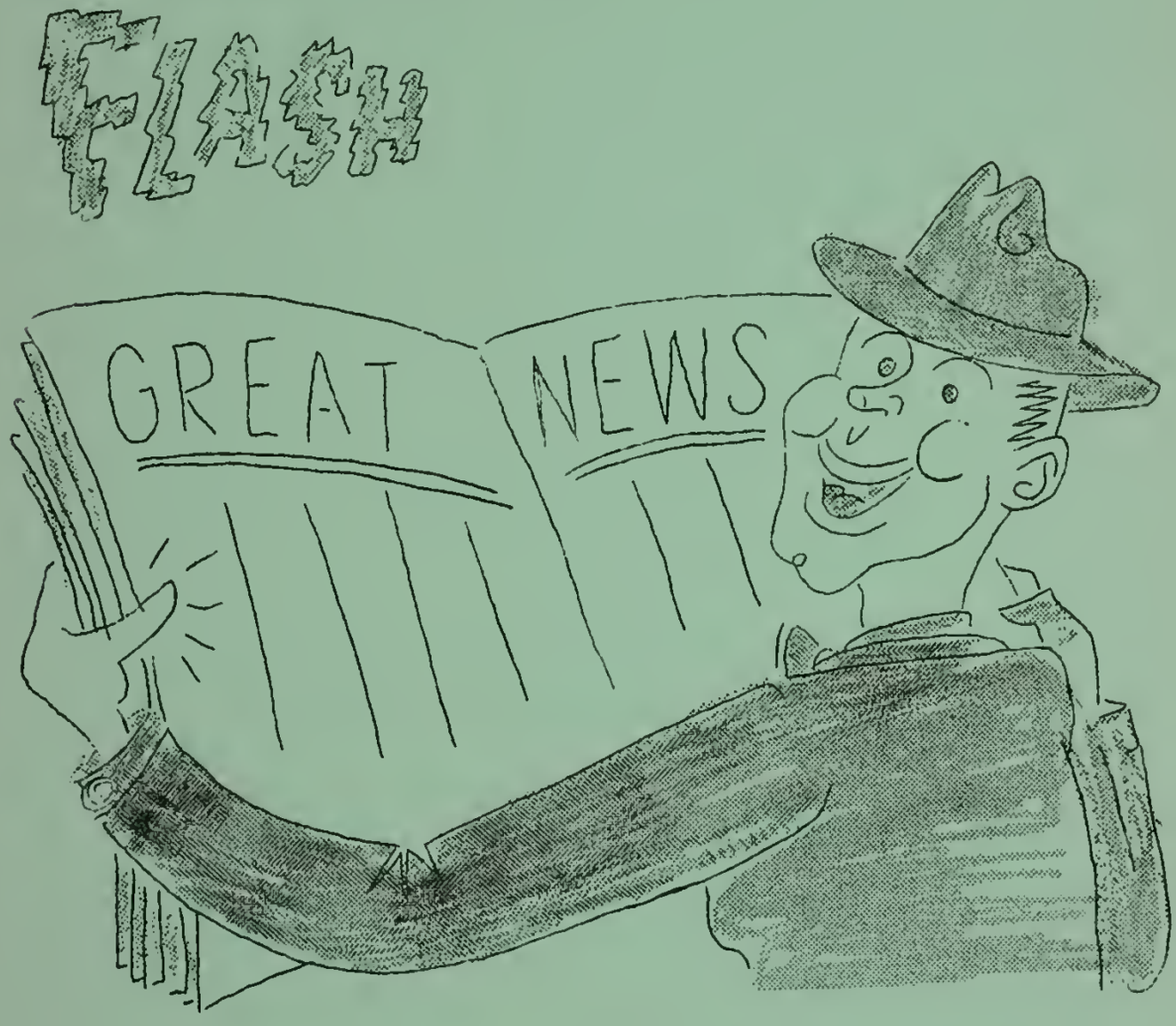
We wish to extend to each of you and your families a "Very Merry Christmas". May the spirit of Christmas make us even more conscious of the magnificient contribution that our work plays in the welfare of mankind. We are sure that you will join with us in a resolution that 1961 will be a year of progress in meeting the leisure-time needs of the people of Georgia.

May peace and joy be with you throughout the Christmas season.

HURRAH !

THE GENERAL OFFICE WAS VERY PLEASED TO SEE MR. COLLIER RETURN TO WORK ON NOVEMBER 21. HE WAS VERY PLEASED WITH THE PROGRESS THAT HAS BEEN MADE IN THE DEPARTMENT, AND HOPES THAT HE WILL BE ABLE TO VISIT SOME OF THE AREAS IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

WE ARE CERTAINLY GLAD TO HAVE HIM BACK, AND WE KNOW THE PERSONNEL THROUGHOUT THE DEPARTMENT EXPRESSES OUR WISHES FOR HIS CONTINUED RECOVERY FROM HIS RECENT ILLNESS.



NEWS ITEMS

Fall colors of the North Georgia mountains have brought thousands of people into our parks during the past two months. Every state park in the mountainous areas have recorded many, many visitors enjoy ng the countryside and the brilliant colors. Vogel, for instance, recorded 15,000 people in one afternoon. Unicoi, Black Rock, Fort Mountain and Cloudland Canyon have all reported many visitors.

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THE PARK SUPERINTENDENTS CONFERENCE WAS HELD NOVEMBER 15-16, 1960

The 3rd In-Service Training Program was held at Veterans Memorial State Park. Mr. Harry Kenning, American Red Cross Field Representative, Southeastern Area, was the principal consultant, and did an outstanding job in training the superintendents in first aid and artificial resperation. The Department of State Parks would like to thank Mr. Kenning for his interest and wonderful cooperation during the training program.

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KOLOMOKI - Work has started on converting an old guard house into a comfort station for tent and trailer campers. We hope that next year our family campers will be better pleased with our facilities.

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A. H. STEPHANS - Democratic nominee, Adlai Stevenson, and a party including Mrs. Marshall Fields, paid a visit to Alexander H. Stephens State Park, Crawfordville, Georgia during the weekend of November 19. He seemed very well pleased with the Confederate Museum, and felt that Liberty Hall was most interesting. The parks department was pleased to have such an outstanding visitor.

THE SOUTHEASTERN STATE PARK DIRECTORS CONFERENCE WAS HELD AT IDA CASON CALLAWAY GARDENS.

The 19th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern State Park Directors was held November 2-4 at Ida Cason Callaway Gardens, Pine Mountain, Georgia.
The Georgia Department of State Parks was host for the conference.

Park directors and their key personnel from twelve states were represented. Many ideas were exchanged with state park representatives in addition to the National Park Service, U.S. Corps of Engineers and National Forestry Service.

Dr. Hugh Masters, of the Univerversity of Georgia made the key-note address at the banquet. Everyone felt that the meeting was a success, due to the fact that one state can always learn from another.

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THE STONE FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

The earliest jewelry known belonged to a Queen of Egypt's first dynasty and was made of cast gold and carved turquoise, an opaque skyblue stone, is found in Russia, China, Sinai, Tibet and southwestern United States. Much American Indian jewelry is of silver and turquoise.

The turquoise, a gem rarely found in crystals, is usually obtained in a solid mass.

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Temperance and labor are the two best physicians of man; labor sharpens the appetite and temperance prevents him from indulging to excess.

Rousseau

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"THE FORT YARGO EPIC"

By Rev. L. G. Marlin

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The Rev. L. G. Marlin of Winder, Georgia has recently completed a paper titled, "The Fort Yargo Epic" that will be of great interest to the people of the area. Local groups, who are working to get the old fort restored, requested him to make a research into the history of this old landmark. This he has recently completed, after considerable research, and he has consented to let us publish it in The Winder News in several installments. This is the first and it will be continued each week until completed. He later plans to have it published in pamphlet form--H.O.S.)

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GUNNING FIVE PER CENT OF PUBLIC USE OF REFUGES, SAYS FISH AND WILDLIFE

The Fish and Wildlife Service, in its latest annual report on how the public uses the wildlife refuges, says there were 9,936,000 visitor-days for the year, in all areas. Ninety-five per cent of these were for uses other than gunning. (It may come as a shock to some to learn that several of the refuges are partly open to wildlife shooting in season.)

Thirty-two per cent of the use was for fishing, but sixty-three per cent for picnicking and swimming and for observing and photographing wildlife. The Service explains that designated parts of 138 of the 275 national wildlife refuges, where such use does not interfere with the primary purpose of the areas, are open to recreation of this kind.

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All work is as seed sown; it grows and spreads and sows itself anew.

Thomas Carlyle

SNOWFLAKES

Out of the bosom of the air,
Out of the cloud-folds of her garments shaken
Over the woodlands brown and bare,
Over the harvest-fields forsaken,
Silent and soft and slow
Descends the snow.

Even as our cloudy fancies take
Suddenly shape in some diving expression,
Even as the troubled heart doth' make
In the white countenance confession,
The troubled sky reveals
The grief it feels.

This is the poem of the air,
Slowly in silent syllables recorded;
This is the secret of despair,
Long in its cloudy bosom hoarded
Now whispered and revealed
To wood and field.

By Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

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Sam Watson, a tall, solemn-looking Negro, making his annual trip for his holiday purchases, was a little belated reaching the city on Christmas eve. Having finished his shopping, he was hurrying to the station to catch his waiting train, when he stumbled; a jug fell to the sidewalk with a crash and the precious contents at once became a mere wet place on the concrete. Sam stood for a moment, dazed by his misfortune. Then, as he turned away from the heart-breaking sight, he said in a lugubrious tone: "Dah now! Chris'mus done come --and gone!"

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He that hath a trade, hath an estate. He that hath a calling, hath an office of profit and honor.

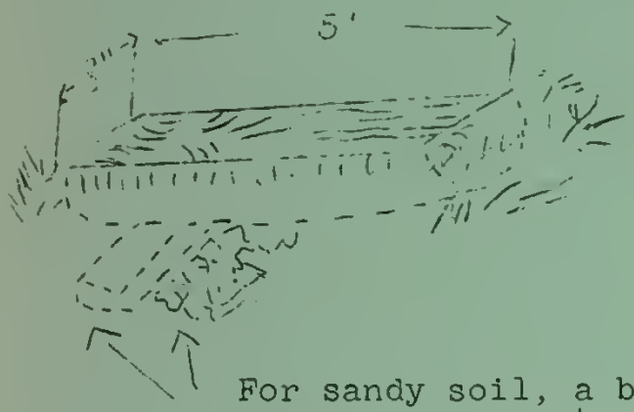
Benjamin Franklin

The understanding and appreciation of nature begins in the very young. Don't pass up an opportunity to show them the right way.

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WOOD-SPLITTING BLOCK

Max Frimodig, Manager, Ft. Wilkins State Park, Michigan, says it's a good idea to have a splitting block handy for camper use, otherwise some of them may be chopping wood on your good stone fireplaces or the handiest porch or bench available.



For sandy soil, a bed of rock or 2 by 4 cross pieces will increase stability.

Max takes a hardwood log about 5 feet long and 8 inches thick, cuts a two or three-inch slab off of one side and then buries it in the ground, flat side up. The flat surface is an inch or two above the ground The advantages of the splitting block are: (1) it won't tip over (2) it can't get carried off (3) it encourages campers to split their wood at one central point and (4) if you provide the ax as some parks do there is less likelihood of it getting dulled or otherwise damaged

For additional stability in sandy soil, Max recommends a 2 by 4 cross piece underneath each end of the log when it is put in place or rocks might be piled around it before the earth is backfilled.

HOW DECEMBER GOT ITS NAME

In the old Roman Calandar which started with the month of March, December was the tenth month and it was named for the Latin word "decem" or ten.

When Julius Caesar changed the calendar in 46 B.C., December became the twelfth month but kept its original name.

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THE FLOWER OF THE MONTH

The plant one thinks of first at Christmas season is the holly, December's flower with its bright shiny pointed leaves and gay red berries. The holly bears no flower in winter but in May its small white blossoms transform the countryside into a sea of beauty, especially in England, where both holly and hawthorn are widely used as hedges.

Since early barbaric times the people of northern Europe have used holly and other evergreens for decoration at the midwinter festival, which is now Christmas. Its name comes from "holy tree".

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MISTLETOE

Today is a good day to put up the Christmas mistletoe. People in northern Europe have been doing this for hundreds of years, tacking a spray of the yellowish-green leaves and waxy white berries over the doorways. In Druid times, the mistletoe was held sacred. In early times, its use was not allowed because the pagan had used it. At one time the mistletoe was supposed to have healing properties. Now, any girl caught under it must forfeit a kiss.

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To make a boot string or a tie strap from odd pieces of leather, use this old Mexican method. The scrap should be trimmed to the largest possible circle, as in figure # 1.

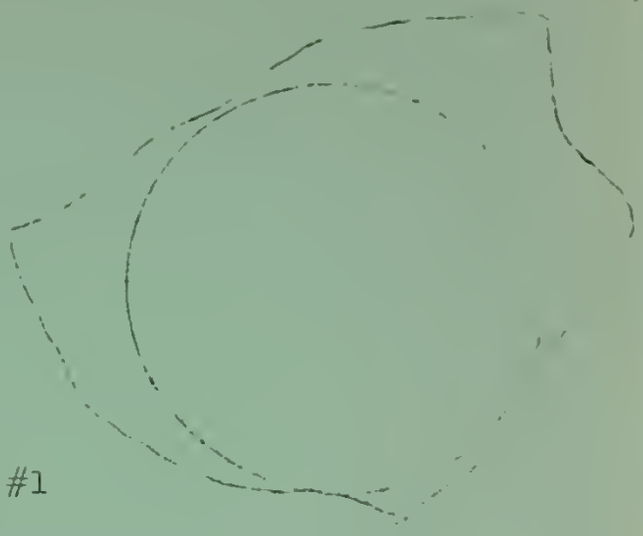


Figure #1

Then mark off a decreasing circle line all the way to the center of the piece Place on a soft board, and cut along your dotted line with a sharp knife. You can get great lengths from very small scraps.

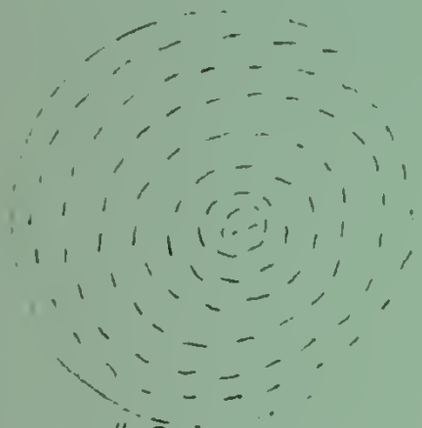
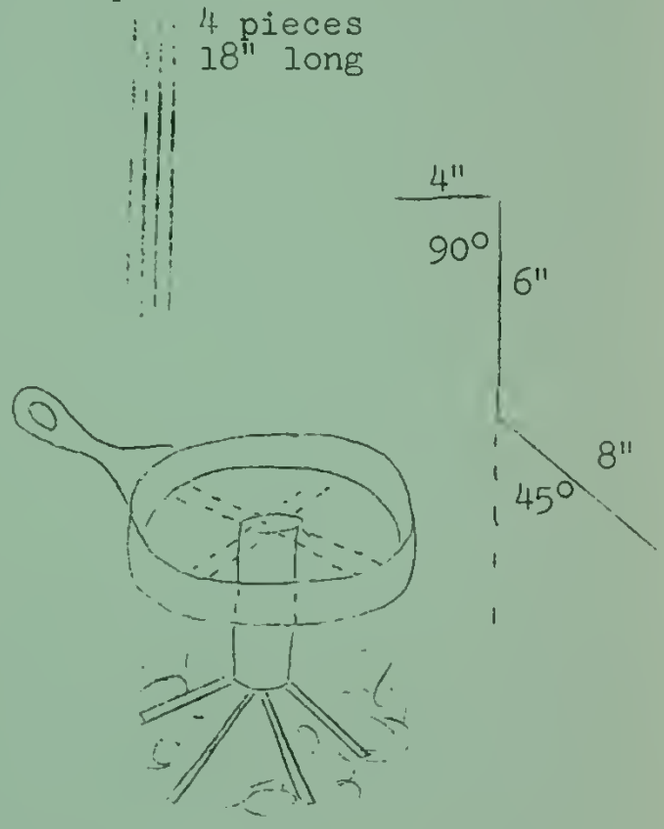


Figure # 2

A portable stand for frying pan or coffee pot can be made from four iron rods (approximately 18" long) and a short length of pipe. Insert rods in pipe, bend one end of each rod to a 90° angle, the other end to a 450° angle. They spread to form a very stable support, and fold to form a very compact bundle.



Submitted by: George Greene, Supt., Georgia Veterans Mem. State Park

SECOND DIGGING SEASON ENDS AT COLORADO'S WETHERILL MESA

The national Park Service and the National Geographic Society have completed a second season of excavations at abandoned cliff dwellings of Southwest Pueblo Indians.

Indians vanished from the Weatherill Mesa section of what is now Colorado's Mesa Verde. National Park before A.D. 1300. Archeologists want to know how they lived and what happened to them.

Scientists who were housed in a tent city there during the summer are conducting a broad program of research. Studies of the cliff architecture, artifacts, burials, soil, pollen, wood, charcoal, and the area's plant life are part of the long-range project.

Thousands of articles have been collected at the main cliff settlements, Long House, Mug House, and Step House. These include pottery, baskets, bone fleshers, bone awls, stone axes, and, surprisingly, a mummified turkey.

Bit by bit, the scientists are learning more about the shadowy people of the mesas. Examination of rock deposits or near-by Mancos River and the La Plata Mountains suggests, for instance, that these were the sources of stone from which the Indians made tools.

A poignant discovery was made in front of Mug House. Chancing upon a burial place, excavators found the remains of 23 Indians, most of them infants and children. There were meager grave offerings, pottery awls, vases, arrowpoints, and beads.

Master floor plans are being made of the larger settlements. Surveyors have located hundreds of smaller pueblo sites on the ridges of the tree-tangled canyon-scarred hills.

During the first part of the Great Period, A.D. 1100 to 1300, people lived atop the mesas in well-built masonry pueblos. About 1200. possibly because of enemy attacks, they began to move down into the canyons and build their pueblos in cliff faces and caves. Eventually they departed, harassed perhaps by drought as well as enemies.

Many pueblos, particuallarly Long House, were nearly wrecked by early looters. A chief objective of the Park Service-National Geographic project is to stabilize the ruins of Wetherill Mesa so they can be opened to the public.

The Wetherill cliff dwellings would then serve as an alternate attraction to Chapin Mesa's famous Cliff House, which is literally being worn down by the growing numbers of visitors to the Park.

Stabilization involves overhanging cliffs as well as the man-made crumbling masonry. This summer, engineers removed a ten-ton slab of loose rock that threatened to flatten rooms in Mug House. Removal of a large rock slide there revealed a whole complex of rooms whose presence was unsuspected.

Cell-like rooms surrounded ceremonial courts, or kivas, in the large dwellings. At Long House, excavations below floor level have revealed special features such as mealing bins and fireplaces.

The Wetherill Mesa Archeological Project is expected to take five or six years. Dr. Douglas Osborne, of the National Park Service, is the supervisory archeologist.

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By the time father gets the vacation bills paid, it is time to think about Christmas presents.

FAMILY CAMPING

WEATHER - Weather extremes are a possibility when living outdoors, and it is wise to know how to stay safe and comfortable under various conditions. In this way you run no undue risks to health or have to turn for home in the midst of your vacation.

There may be a sudden cold spell in midsummer or you may encounter very chilly conditions at high altitudes; be parpared for this extreme with warm clothing for all the family. You will be warmer sleeping on the ground than on cots, and newspapers under sleeping bags will help. If bags zip together, sleeping double will help. You can warm your tent by filling a Dutch oven or pail with coals or hot rocks. A gas stove or lantern will help take off some chill. A reflector-type fire at the entrance will warm the inside; aluminum foil in back of the fire will reflect more heat in the right direction. If caught in an unseasonal snowstorm, brush snow off the roof of tent with a soft bough, and pile boughs against the sides for extra insulation. When heating the inside of a tent with a stove or heater of any sort, be sure there is sufficient ventilation.

In very hot weather, pitch your tent in shade and where there is some breeze. A large fly or white sheet pitched over the tent roof will help to keep the inside cooler. Leave all windows and flaps open and lift the tent sides if there is no floor. A Canvas water bag hung inside the tent, with a pan below to catch the drip, may help to keep the temperature down a bit. Sleep on top of your bag rather than inside. Know the symptons and first aid for sunburn, sunstroke, and heat exhaustion. Stay out of the hot midday sun.

If a windstorm appears likely, be sure your camp is well secured. Hold down plastic covers or tarpaulins with rocks, collapse canvas chairs and cots. Drown campfire to prevent any sparks from getting under the floor, and if necessary, collapse the tent altogether. If there is any hail and the stones are large, slacken tent ropes. You may want to take refuge in the car if there is severe lightning. Avoid shelters in the open and if caught outdoors stay away from isolated tall trees and high places; seek protection in low ground; or at the foot of a hill or cliff. In hard rain, you may need to cover things inside the tent until the first period of spray is over. Remember to loosen tent guy lines, and be sure a fly or awning has no hollows to catch and pool the water.

Adequate protection from the elements and knowledge of how to cope with some few situations which may arise while living outdoors is the simple secret of a happy camping experience. May your next trip be the best yet!

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Sue: "I believe my husband is the most generous man in the world."
Lou: "How's that?"
Sue: "Well, I gave him a dozen of the loveliest neckties for Christmas, and he took them right down and gave them to the Salvation Army."

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Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.

Henry Ford

ALEXANDER H. STEPHENS STATE PARK

LIBERTY HALL - The beautiful antebellum home of Alexander Hamilton Stephens in the state park bearing his name near Crawfordville is a home which has seen a lot of living, and somehow seems to have captured some of that exciting spirit of its hey-day.

Stephens, vice-president of the Confederacy and Governor of Georgia, liked to entertain and he liked to do it in his own way. He enjoyed seeing his guests enjoy themselves. In his home the guests felt free, relaxed. That's the way Stephens wanted it. That's why he named his stately home "Liberty Hall".

Some of the South's greatest leaders have been guests in this house and as you walk through its massive hall and look into the gracious rooms, you get the feeling that all of Stephens' guests must have looked forward to coming there.

You'll also find evidence of other traits of that great man. Like the mound of rocks in the corner of the garden where "Rio" and other faithful dogs are buried. He was a great lover of dogs. The epitaph on the mound makes this known.

"Here rests the remains of what in life was a satire upon the human race, but an ornament unto his own, a faithful dog".

The house has a wine cellar and there is reason to believe he was careful and proud of this facility. And another room which he called simply "the tramp room". That's probably an early den, in the rough.

The beautiful Brussels carpeting and the wall paper are reproductions, but much of the original furniture is there.

LIBERTY HALL (Continued)

At the Stephens Park there is also a Confederate Museum where relics, documents, diaries and letters are preserved. Also at the museum are uniforms of the Confederates, muskets, swords and hundreds of other articles to hold your interest for hours.

Every Georgia ought to visit this delightful park and tour this lovely home. Not for its own beauty and interest alone, but for what its owner represented.

Stephens, born in Tallaferro County, was left motherless while a baby and an orphan at fourteen. Frail in statue, he weighed around 90 pounds. He was never married.

After graduating from Franklin College, now the University of Georgia, he went to Liberty Hall after teaching school two years to study law. He loved the place, and when its owner died he bought it.

While he lived there he served in the State Legislature as a delegate to the Charleston Commercial Convention and as a member of Congress for 26 years. He led Georgia's opposition to secession and when his state seceded he was elected to the provisional congress and later vice president of the Confederacy.

Later he served as governor after teaching, writing and editing a newspaper.

The park also offers group camping, tent and trailer camping and fishing. It's a delightful place for a weekend vacation. It is located on Georgia 44 and 15 and U.S. 278. Any service station will assist you in marking the best route to this park.

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EXPLORING OUR NATIONAL PARKS AND MONUMENTS -- 5th EDITION

By Devereux Butcher

This is the book about the national parks and monuments under the care of the National Park Service. Since publication of the 1st edition, in 1947, it has gone through four more editions, with a total printing of 100,000 copies. Each edition has been improved and revised to keep all information up to date.

The book describes 26 national parks 34 nature monuments and 17 archaeological monuments. In 312 pages, there are more than 300 magnificent photographs, including 16 pages in color, of scenery, wildlife, wild flowers, and prehistoric Indian ruins. Three maps show the locations of all areas described. Not only is this the complete guide to these sanctuaries under National Park Service care, but it expresses throughout, the highest principals governing their administration and protection. It is the ideal book for all wilderness and nature enthusiasts. In cloth covers it is $5; in paper $3.45. Order from your local book store today a copy for yourself and gift copies for your friends, or fill in the coupon and mail it with your check to the publishers.

Houghton Mifflin Company
2 Park Street
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DATES TO REMEMBER

Christmas Day
December 25, 1960

American Camping Association
District Meeting
April 12-14, 1961

Family Camping Workshop
April 22-23, 1961

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